

28. The medical device of Claim 27 wherein said coating is applied in the form of a waffle pattern, stripe pattern or a pattern having circular perforations.
29. The medical device of Claim 1 wherein said coating is applied in a waffle pattern, stripe pattern or a pattern having circular perforations.

Remarks

Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Porter et al.

Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection. Porter et al. describes a continuous coating on a discontinuous substrate, a stent. At col. 5, lines 27-32, the coating is described:

To reduce the risk of toxicity from the curable material prior to curing, the stent can further include a layer of a biocompatible material which *encapsulates* the curable fiber composite and serves as a *barrier* between the stent and any circulating blood, and between the stent and the lumen walls.

The terms "*encapsulates*" and "*barrier*" clearly indicate that the coating is continuous on the substrate.

Applicants on the other hand, both describe and claim a coating which is noncontinuous. The inventions are not the same as required under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8 as being anticipated by Porter et al.

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

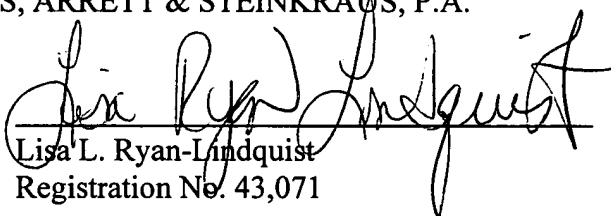
Applicant has addressed any issues presented by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early allowance of the claims as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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